No. 15,526.

WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 1902-THIRTY-FOUR PAGES.

TWO CENTS.

MAY TAKE UP CLAIMS COMMISSIONERS ACT

because he knows it pays him to make public announcements rather than to waste his time in attempting to do business by the circulation of pamphlets, booklets and the like through the

The wise business man places

his inducements to customers

in the widely circulated news-

paper, like The Evening Star,

AWARD TO SEALERS AT THE WHITE HOUSE

Against Russia.

CLAIMS SETTLED THREE

OWNERS OF SEIZED VESSELS RE-

MUNERATED.

Russia's Claim of Right to Seize Out- A Conference as to Transfer of Bureaus side Territorial Limits is Denied.

THE HAGUE, November 29.-Professor Asser, the Dutch jurist who has been arbithe seizure of their vessels by the Russian government about ten years ago, has delivered his award in favor of the United case of the American schooner C. H. White at \$32,444; in the case of the James Hamilton Lewis at \$28.588; the Kate and Anna at other man to the position. \$1,488, and the Cape Horn Pigeon, \$38,750.

Where Verdict Was Delivered. Prof. Asser delivered his judgment in the arbitration court, in the presence of the representatives of the United States and of Russia and others, including the foreign minister of Netherlands, Dr. van Lyndena. In giving his reasons for the award Prof. Asser held that the schooner C. H. White was seized outside Russian territorial waters and that the Russian contention that a warship of one nation was entitled to pursue beyond the boundaires of its territorial seas a ship of another nation guilty of illegal action within those waters, was untenable. The arbitrator declared that the jurisdiction of the state could not extend beyond its territorial waters except

by special treaty. The seizure and confiscation of the C. H. White and the imprisonment of her crew was, therefore, illegal and Russia was con-demned to pay the C. H. White \$32,444, with interest at 6 per cent.

Basis of the Award.

The dispute was the subject of protracted negotiation, resulting in an agreement in 1900 between Count Lamsdorff, acting minister of foreign affairs of Russia, and Herbert H. D. Peirce, United States charge d'affaires at St. Petersburg, designating Prof. Asser a member of the council of state of the Netherlands, an arbitrator. Prof. Asser decided June 30, 1902, that the average annual catch should form the basis on which damages should be awarded, which was exactly the contention advance by Mr. Peirce, who was the advocate for the United States government. The deonly left for further argument the sum due in each case.

TO STUDY AMERICA.

Delegation of German Farmers Coming.

BERLIN, November 29.-A large delegation of farmers, under the auspices of the German Agricultural Society, is going to the United States in April for a three months' tour, studying American agricultural methods. The German embassy at Washington negotiated the affair with the Agricultural Department, which will furnish a guide during the entire trip. His expenses will be defrayed by the Germans. The trip includes stops at Baltimore, where special attention will be given to dairy farms, and Washington, where the Agriculstudied. The German Agricultural Society, though a private organization, has taken the United States Agricultural Department as a model, and is trying to do in Germany many things which the department does in the United States.

BIG FIRE AT NORMAL, ONT. Almost the Entire Business Section Wiped Out.

BAT PORTAGE, Ontario, November 29 .-Practically the entire business section of the village of Normal, near here, was wiped out by the fire which started in the extensive lumber yards there yesterday. The total loss is estimated at half a million dollars, with an insurance of about ene-third of that amount. The principal sufferers from the fire are the lumber companies and saw mills, which made up about the only industry of the village. Twentyfive million feet of sawn lumber and logs were destroyed. A number of vessels lying at the lumber yard docks were also destroyed, but their value will not exceed \$15,000. The fire was checked after fifteen houses in the residence section of the town had been destroyed.

WILL NOT FIGHT EXTRADITION. C. F. Kelly Willing to Go to St. Louis for Trial.

PHILADELPHIA, November 29.-Charles F. Kelly, former speaker of the house of delegates of St. Louis, who was arrested in this city yesterday as an alleged fugitive from justice, was arraigned in the Central police court today. Upon the testimony of Detective Tate, who effected the arrest, Kelly was held to await the arrival of requisition papers from Missouri. The detective was the only witness, his testimony being merely to the effect that Kelly was wanted in St. Louis. He read a telegram from the chief of police there saying Kelly was charged with perjury and bribery.

Previous to the hearing the authorities offered Kelly the opportunity to be repre-sented by counsel, but he waived this right, saving he would return to St. Louis without esistance and would secure counsel when he arrived in that city. Kelly was alone in court. While in the tectives.

Col. Ochiltree's Funeral.

NEW YORK, November 29.-The funeral of Colonel Thomas P. Ochiltree was held in this city today. A solemn requiem mass was celebrated at the Church of the Paulist Fathers, and the body was placed in a vault at Calvary cemetery.

Decoration for Mr. Tower. LONDON, November 29.-The czar has conferred the Grand Cordon of the Saint Alexander Newysky Order on Ambassador Tower, and the French government has made Mr. Tower a grand officer of the Legion of Honor for his book on the Mar-quis of Lafayette in the American revolu-tion.

Anarchist Arrested at Sofia. SOFIA, Bulgaria, November 29.-A supsed anarchist was arrested in of Euxinograde Castle today on suspicion that he intended making an attempt to assassinate Prince Ferdinand of Bulgaria.

Prof. Asser Decides Case Talk About Encreachments of Cattlemen.

DELEGATE RODEY IS SURE THE HOUSE BILL WILL PASS.

to New Department of Commerce-Today's Callers.

Edward Rosewater, editor of the Omaha Bee, spent some time with the President totrating the claims of American sealers for day discussing Nebraska and western affairs. About a year ago Mr. Rosewater made charges against Agent Matthewson, in charge of the Omaha and Winnebago In-States. He appraises the damages in the dians, and has continued to press his objections to Mr. Matthewson's reappointment. The President has decided to appoint an-

> Mr. Rosewater talked with the President about the troubles that the government is encountering with cattlemen who have fenced government lands for pasture purposes. More than a year ago the President directed the Interior Department to give the cattlemen notice to take their fences down. Few of them have complied with the order and action is to be taken to force them to do so. In some instances federal grand juries will be appealed to and in others United States marshals will act forcibly. To avoid having to take the fences down cattlemen have resorted to the plan of importing the widows of sol-diers and having these widows take up quarter sections on which the fences are located.

> The widows, by reason of the preference given them under the law, will soon actitle, and their interests are then bought by the cattlemen. In fact, every known expedient has been resorted to by catttlemen to avoid taking the fences down Col. John S. Mosby, the famous confederate guerrilla, is in Oklahoma and the Dakotas looking up the situation for the government. He has been talking some and indirectly criticising senators for endeavoring to have him ease up on the cattlemen. There have been suggestions of trouble for him because of his talk, but it is said the President will stand by him. The President will discuss the subject in his message.
>
> Train loads of widows of soldiers have been paid to take up government lands on each side of the fences that were ordered

to be torn down. This prevents the government carrying out its plans.

Three New States Are Certain. Delegate Rodey of New Mexico is so con fident that the Senate will at once make cision carried with it the opinion of the court that Russia must pay damages, and zona that he pronounces as "all rot" the speculation that has been indulged in looking toward the refusal of the Senate to confer statehood on the three territories. Delegate Rodey was at the White House to-day and saw the President.

"My opinion," said Mr. Rodey, "is that the Senate committee will report the House bill on Wednesday, according to agreement, and that the bill will become law by the 12th or 15th of this month. All this talk about conferring statehood on Oklahoma and leaving New Mexico and Arizona out and leaving New Mexico and Arizona out is folly. The friends of statehood for all three territories are strong enough to put the bill through as it passed the House, and will do so. There are sufficient votes in the Senate to pass the bill with ease."

A Committee Conference.

Assistant Secretary Ailes of the Treasury Department, Assistant Secretary Ryan of the Interior Department and John Hyde, the chief statistician of the Department of Department will be exhaustively Agriculture, who have been appointed a committee from the three departments named to confer about the transfer of certain bureaus to the proposed new department of commerce, talked with the President this morning. They went over with him some of the difficulties in the way of transfer. The same questions will be dis-cussed with the House committee on interstate and foreign commerce, which has charge of the Senate bill establishing the new department. The departmental commit tee will meet the House committee next

Labor and Capital in Australia.

Thomas Whitford Taylor, a member of the Australian parliament, who has been traveling in Europe with the Australian premier, Sir Edmund Barton, and other distinguished Australians, was received by the President this morning, and the two talked about Australia's progress in different directions. President Roosevelt has long beer interested in the compulsory arbitration laws of Australia, which he considers a marked and valuable step over the methods in this country or attempting the settlement of strikes.

"There is practically no chance for a strike in Australia," said Mr. Taylor to a Star reporter. Employers and labor organizations would forfeit large sums of money If they refused to submit the settlement of a strike to arbitration. Therefore strikes are practically impossible with us. Australia recognizes the Amalgamated Trade Union, which is responsible, financially, in sustaining its position. Employers are in precisely the same situation. All labor men in my country are amalgamated into one immense union."

The Isthmian Canal Commission.

Representative Richardson, the minority leader of the House, called on the President today to present the name of Wm. S. Morgan of Fayetteville, Tenn., for membership on the isthmian canal commission. The President said he would give the name of Mr. Morgan consideration. Another Tennessee man, weil known in Washington, is a candidate for one of the places on this commission. He is ex-Representative Jos. E. Washington. The President is not giving much consideration to the membership of the commission because of the indefinite situation as to what will be done about the canal

Many Prominent Visitors. Senators Allison and Lodge and Representatives Payne and Cannon had a con-

ference with the President this morning about a matter the President was interested in. Admiral Dewey, who will sail Monday for naval maneuvers in southern Atlantic

waters, called on the President to say good Senator Alger of Michigan, who succeeds the late Senator McMillan, called to pay his respects and was most warmly received by the President. He was accompanied by his sons, Russell A. Alger, jr., and Capt. F. M. Alger; his sons-in-law, C. B. Pike and H. D. Shelton; his former military sec-

retary, Maj. Geo. B. Hopkins, and his sec-retary, Victor L. Mason. The call was a most pleasant one. Senator Burrows of Michigan and Senator Barton of Kansas had interviews with the President

Cardinal Gibbons had a conference with the President this morning. He was accompanied by Father D. J. Stafford. Representative Livingstone of Georgia called to pay his respects.

Mrs. J. Ellen Foster introduced Mrs. Hugh
France of Wardner, Shoshone county,



morning his letters of recall to the President. He will sail next Thursday on the La Champagne for his new post in Spain. Maj. Hodgson's Resolution Regarding He will be accompanied by Mr. Louis Hermite, who has been appointed to Madrid. The President expressed his appreciation of the loss sustained in the departure of so distinguished a diplomat.

NEW DISTRICT ATTORNEY. Mr. Beach Busy Receiving Congratu-

lations From Friends. Mr. Morgan H. Beach, who has been selected by the President for appointment of Columbia to succeed Mr. Ashley M. Gould upon the latter's elevation to the



Morgan H. Beach.

Photograph by Clinedinst. District Supreme bench, reached his office in the Fendall building bright and early this morning. He at once realized that he was wise in being so prompt, for a mammoth task confronted him-that of opening a big pile of congratulatory letters and telegrams. Mr. Beach was also kept busy throughout the day receiving callers. Among the visitors were many members of the bar, all of whom assured the new United States attorney that the President's election had met with general approval. Mr. Beach, so he says, is prepared to assume his new duties just as soon as Mr. Gould mounts the bench. The appointee is of the opinion that the work of the United States attorney's office is of such an im-portant character that it should not be re-tarded even for a few days, and some embarrassment would ensue in the event Mr. Gould's successor failed to step in promptly. Asked if he had in mind any prospective changes in the office force, Mr. Beach stated that he will not even consider such matters until he takes charge of the office.

Personal Mention. Senator Millard of Nebraska and Repre-

sentative J. W. Wadsworth of New York are at the New Willard. Mr. Wallace Bruce of Brooklyn and George C. Mason of New York are at the Arlington.

Mr. Alexander Cunningham of Seattle, Wash., and Mr. W. M. Gunton of Chicago are at the Raleigh. Senator Paris Gibson of Montana has arrived in the city and is stopping at the Cochran Hotel. Brigadier General H. C. Merriam, retired, now living in Wayne, Pa., is visiting friends

Movements of Naval Vessels. The Justin left Uraga, Japan, yesterday France of Wardner, Shoshone county, Idaho.

Idaho.

The French Ambassador Says Farewell

The French ambassador presented this

The Helena is at Amoy, the five months in Hawaiian waters, but we have been well repaid for our labors. Here are some drawings I have just received showing colors more brilliant than the most waters, but we have been well repaid for our labors. Here are some drawings I have just received showing colors more brilliant than the most waters, but we have been well repaid for our labors. Here are some drawings I have just received showing colors more brilliant than the most waters, but we have been well repaid for our labors. Here are some drawings I have just received showing colors more brilliant than the most waters, but we have been well repaid for our labors. Here are some drawings I have just received showing colors more brilliant than the most waters, but we have been well repaid for our labors. Here are some drawings I have just received showing colors more brilliant than the most waters, but we have been well repaid for our labors. Here are some drawings I have just received showing colors more brilliant than the most waters, but we have been well repaid for our labors. Here are some drawings I have just received showing colors more brilliant than the most waters, but we have been well repaid for our labors.

REFERRED TO COMMISSION.

Civil Employes in Philippines. Major Fred S. Hodgson, commander of the District of Columbia Corps, Spanish War Veterans, has been notified that his resolution in reference to the extension of the benefits of the civil service rules to certain government employes in the Philippines has been transmitted by the President to the civil service commission. Several days ago Commander-in-chief Urell, Major Hodgson and Capt. G. Leyburn Shorey, representing the national body and as United States attorney for the District the District Corps, Spanish War Veterans, called on the President and requested him to give the matter favorable consideration. The resolution was presented to the recent national convention of the organiza-tion at Detroit by Major Hodgson and was unanimously adopted. It provides that the civil service rules be extended to all former soldiers now holding civil positions under the government in the Philippines and Porto Rico, and that their transfer to similar

positions in the United States be permit-ted without the necessity of further civil ervice examinations. Major Hodgson stated that there are a number of former soldiers now holding gov-ernment positions in the colonies who could secure transfers by exchange to home po-sitions should the civil service bar be re-moved. Some of these men, he added, are threatened with climatic allments from long service in the tropics, and he believes they should be given the opportunity provided by his resolution to return to this country and still retain their places.

GREAT SPORT AT HAVANA. Spanish Delight in "Jai Alai" and Buy

Pools on the Result. "Next to the bull fight the Spanish delight in jai alai," said a gentleman just returned from Havana. "The pame is pronounced as if it were 'high align,' and has resemblance to ping pong, basket ball, lawn tennis, la crosse and billiards. A upward a few inches. This basket is bound to the back of the hand with the curved end out. In the play the hand is held perpendicularly, and this brings the curve at the end upward. The ball is about the size and weight of a tennis ball and is served from this basket against a solid wall and is recovered in it. The server acquires a good many crives, and the game becomes quite scientific in the hands of skillful players. Two persons or two teams of two play. The ball may be made to rebound from the wall in front or to richochet to either side wall. The enousing player to either side wall. The opposing player must catch it in the basket bound to his hand and return it to the wall in front of hand and return it to the wall in front of him with whatever curves he may care to give it. The player falling to return the ball loses a point in the score. Large sums of money are staked on the players often, and at the clubs pools are sold as at American horse races. The La Fronton Club is one of the largest in Hayana devoted to this sport. It has a handsome brick building with a glass roof in the suburbs of the ing with a glass roof in the suburbs of the where the devotees of the game meet. The early morning is the popular hour for the play, and the club house is usually well filled before 10 in the morning. The game affords as much exercise and sport as any similar game and no doubt will some time become popular in the United States." IN HAWAIIAN WATERS.

Dr. Evermann Tells of the Cruise of

Dr. B. W. Evermann, recently promoted to be chief of division of fisheries, is busy at the fish commission building compiling the work of the Albatross in Hawaiian waters. "Our report," said Dr. Evermann to a Star representative, "will be as full and complete as our work on Porto Rico published two years ago. The Albatross had a hard cruise this summer, spending

variegated butterfly possesses. Our artist-is very particular and will paint only live fishes. When we asked him to paint some ishes of which we could get no live specimens he said: 'Let some one else do that. But, as you see, the work is very delicate, and a dead fish loses most of the true colorings. All these were painted while in glass tanks. It took two weeks to com-plete the paintings of the smaller fishes

with the delicate colorings.
"The investigations of the Albatross next summer have not been decided upon, but the Alaskan waters are under discussion. Part of the collections only made this sum-mer has been received here. The report on the fishes is being worked up at Stanford University, California, while other data will go to specialists over the country. The crustaceans and mollusks come here. I stopped off in Indiana to vote and to make a report on the proposed fish station in that state. Lake Maxinduckee is favored by some of the northern congressmen, and I was there to investigate, but fear we have ncountered an insurmountable obstacle there. An old lady entered a protest at a public meeting, and said she had been around one of 'them there places where they handle fish and the smell was so bad nobody could stand it."

PEACE IN COLOMBIA.

Generals Vergas-Santos and Sato Yield to General Valencia.

The Colombian legation received a dispatch this morning from Gen. Perdomo, commanding the government forces on the isthmus, announcing the surrender of Gens. Vergas-Santos and Sato, two of the foremost of the revolutionary leaders. They surrendered to Gen. Gonzales Valencia. The dispatch adds that this completes the pacification of the entire country.

GENERAL ALGER HERE.

Will Sit in the Senate as Senator Mc-Millan's Successor.

General Alger of Michigan has arrived here to be sworn in as the successor of the woven basket five inches wide and of about late Senator McMillan. His appointment by the same depth is used. The basket is Governor Bliss and assured election this fifteen inches long, with an end curving winter will give him at least a term of four years in the Senate. Gen. Alger, who is staying at the Arlington, today declined to make any statement of his views on public questions for publication. He came here in his private car accompanied by members of his family.

Army Orders.

Leaves of absence have been granted as follows: Lieut. Col. George E. Pond, deputy quartermaster general, two months; Col. Argalus G. Hennisee, 5th Cavalry until January 16, 1293; Capt. Albert S. Brookes, 29th Infantry, one month's extension; First Lieut. Robert W. Barnett, 13th Infantry, one month's extension; First Lieut. Upton Birnie, jr., artillery corps, one month's extension.

First Lieut. Henry H. Rutherford, assistant surgeon, United States army, having completed his duty in this city, has been granted one month's leave of absence, upon the expiration of which he will return to First Lieut. Asa T. Abbott, United States

army, has been relieved from duty at the University of Washington, Seattle, Wash. it his own request. Maj. William H. Arthur, surgeon, United Maj. William H. Arthur, surgeon, United States army, having reported in person to the surgeon general of the army, has been ordered to New York city, to assume the duties of attending surgeon and examiner of recruits and to relieve First Lieut. Theodore C. Lyster, assistant surgeon, United States army, who has been ordered to Fort Schuyler, New York.

Transport Crook at 'Frisco. SAN FRANCISCO, November 29 .- The army transport Crook arrived last night from Manila, too late to pass quarantine Her passengers will be landed today.

The Water at Harper's Ferry

MR. SELIGMAN'S VISIT NO RELIEF IN SIGHT

Conferred With the President | Coal Famine's Grasp on City and Senator Hanna.

OBLIGATIONS OF VENEZUELA COMMITTEE OF BUSINESS MEN

HELD IN EUROPE.

Feeling in Official Circles Regarding | Few Car Loads Arrive at the Benning the Proposed Action of the New York Bankers.

What is regarded as an important conference was held at the White House this afternoon, the participants being the Presi- railroads, as now seems to be the case, the of the banking house of Seligman Bros. known and such action will follow as will The report is circulated that Venezuela in- best suit the requirements of the situation. tends to settle, through an Anglo-American banking house, the claims against her held appointed a committee of citizens, chosen by Great Britain, Germany and France. Mr. Seligman, at the conclusion of the con- the Business Men's Association, to investiference this afternoon, declined to say anything regarding the rumor, or what had determine what steps are necessary and passed in the conference in the President's him was a social one. Mr. Seligman was entirely from the coal supply now being with the President and Senator Hanna shipped from the anthracite mines. about twenty minutes. Senator Hanna was uncommunicative when he left the White House. The total amount of the claims held | president of the local board. It has been by citizens of Germany, England and France against Venezuela amounts to about \$25 .-000,000, about \$15,000,000 of which are held by Germans. It is for the payment of these claims that Germany and England are preparing to make a demonstration against the revolutionary South American republic. It was Mr. Seligman's intention to see the Secretary of State as soon as possible.

View in Official Circles.

The appearance in Washington of Mr. Seligman, taken in connection with the press dispatches printed this morning from London relative to Venezuelan finances, was taken in official circles here today as indicating the existence of a syndicate with the purpose of floating all of Venezuela's many debts and thus averting the very imminent dangers that country now stands in of a seizure of her customs houses by foreign powers. The assumption is that the prospective syndicate wishes to ascertain before closing a bargain with Venezuela whether or not the United States will insure the meeting by Venezuela of the obligations she would assume in the matter of

repayment of the loan.

Now the United States government, it can be stated on authority, is extremely desirous that Venezuela settle her troubles with Great Britain, Germany and other foreign countries without incurring the seizure of any Venezuelan ports even tem-porarily. For it is realized that while the United States could not consistently obect to the seizure of Venezuelan customs nouses by a foreign power as means of collecting just debts, that is regarded as the contingency to be avoided if possible, for it is feared that serious friction might follow between the foreigners and the Venezuelans and what in the beginning might be declared to be merely temporary occupation would end by a claim of permaence of which the United States must take notice and which it must contest. Therefore, if any responsible financial body is willing to pay off Venezuelan foreign claims, and so relieve the country from danger of occupation, such a move would be welcomed by the State Department.

Would Not Give Guarantee. But it is stated that the official settlement, touching the guarantee by the United States government of the syndicate's Venezuelan loan, would be unfavorably considered. The Department of State objects very strongly to giving any guarantee of that kind, and its official practice has been to extend to an American holding foreign bonds such protection as it would accord to any other citizen, but to allow him to bear the risk of his own venture, holding that he takes the bonds of a foreign government subject to the vicissitudes of that government, and cannot expect the United States to act as his collector in the event that his

expected. FOR A "FLEXIBLE CURRENCY."

speculation does not turn out so well as he

Senator Elkins Says Our Monetary System Needs Elasticity.

Senator Elkins of West Virginia has returned to the city for the session of Congress and is occupying his home on K street. Senator Elkins is dividing his attention between receiving congratulations for the great republican victory in West Virginia and devising plans for Secretary Charley Edwards of the democratic congressional committee to eat his hat.

One evening last fall, when the senator

was the center of a group of newspaper

men and politicians up town, he said that

West Virginia would elect a solid republi-can delegation to Congress, a republican legislature and other officials.

As The Star said the other day, Secretary Edwards was skeptical, and finally de-clared that if West Virginia did that thing he would eat the senator's hat. 'I'm looking around for a nice soft hat for Mr. Edwards," said the senator today. 'I understand that Mr. Edwards, since the

election, has received several letters from sarcastic friends suggesting new recipes for preparing a wool hat for digestion. How-ever, I have nothing to do with that. I hope we will all be invited to the dinner. though. I have seen some rare gastronomic feats in my time, and would like to witness But, leaving such airy persifiage aside, the senator is very much interested in the com-ing session. He does not believe there is a

chance for action on the tariff. He does not believe the rank and file of Congress want it, nor that the people want it. "There is one question a great deal more important to the people at this time than tariff tinkering," said Senator Elkins, "and that is the furnishing of a flexible currency law which will enable the people to tide over periods of stringency in the money market.

"There ought not to be a summer or a fall, a spring or a winter in the money market. When it comes time to move the crops or when any emergency arises there should be provision by which the banks can put out the necessary funds to relieve the pressure.

"This Congress can do that if it will. shall urge a flexible currency bill, and believe we can pass one."

The Nero's Surveys Transferred. The formal transfer of the soundings and surveys of the Nero to be used in the construction of the Pacific cable occurred yesterday in the office of Rear Admiral Bradford, chief of the bureau of equipment, the manager of the Washington office of the Postal Telegraph Company receiving them

Lieut. Col. Wittich Retired. Lieut. Col. Willis Wittich, 2d Infantry,

Becomes Tighter.

WILL INVESTIGATE.

Yards, a Part Consigned to Southern Cities.

If the people of Washington are being discriminated against by the coal-carrying dent, Senator Hanna and Isaac N. Seligman facts of the matter will soon be made The District Commissioners this morning by the presidents of the Board of Trade and gate the charges of discrimination and to can be taken toward breaking the deadlock room. He declared that the call made by which is apparently cutting Washington off

The committee was appointed upon the motion of Commissioner Macfarland, the represented to the Commissioners by President Thomas W. Smith of the Board of Trade and other officers of that organi-zation that some action should be taken at once to prevent a possible coal famine in this city in midwinter, with all its disastrous consequences. Commissioner Mac-farland took up the matter, and, after consultation with a number of prominent citi-zens, recommended to his associate Commissioners that the situation should treated as an exceptional case, warranting

the intervention which is proposed. Commissioner Macfarland states that as a matter which affected the well-being of the entire District, and the health, as well as the comfort, of every home, it could be distinguished. distinguished easily and properly from the ordinary commercial operations, so as to deserve and receive the attention of the executive government of the District of Co-lumbia. It was agreed by the other Com-missioners that this was the case, and thereupon the action was taken.

Mr. Macfarland suggested the appointment of a committee of ten, composed of five members of the Board of Trade and five members of the Business Men's Association. He consulted with Mr. Smith, presition. He consulted with Mr. Smith, president of the Board of Trade, and with President Code. dent Gude of the business men's organization. Mr. Macfarland asked Mr. irman of the commi consented to do so. President Gude will also be a member of the committee, the complete personnel of which is as follows: Board of Trade-Thomas W. Smith, John Joy Edson, George Truesdell, E. Southard Parker and W. S. Henderson. Business Men's Association-W. F. Gude.

R. P. Andrews, L. P. Shoemaker, John Doyle Carmody and Barry Bulkley. It was agreed that the first meeting of the committee should be held Monday afternoon at 4 o'clock in the rooms of the Board

f Trade, Star building. The committee which will investigate the charges of discriminations popularly brought against the railroads will have no official status, except such as is carried by their appointment by the governing body of the District of Columbia. The committee will proceed, however, to inquire into the situation and see what can be done to relieve it. Coal is needed in Washington. It is absolutely essential that the people should have it. The coal is being mined, but none is coming to Washington. committee will inquire into the reason for and the meaning of this. The committee will report back to the Commissioners, and it will then be determined what action shall

be taken. Famine is Here. The coal famine is here in earnest.

There is practically no change in the condition as described in The Evening Star of yesterday. The discrimination against the national capital, inaugurated by the Philadelphia and Reading and Pennsylvania railroads in the form of an embargo, the former refusing to allow its coal cars to come over its connection, the Baltimore and Ohio railroad, and the latter declining to haul Lehigh Valley cars from the mines, is still in effect, and no one but the managers of the carrying companies knows when it will be withdrawn.

A Perplexing Problem.

Consumers of coal in Washington can readily understand why there is not a genuine famine in New York, Philadelphia and other points north, but they are unable to appreciate why Richmond, Va., should have an ample supply of anthracite from the Pennsylvania mines when they are deprived of scarcely enough to keep body and soul together. A special to The Evening Star from Richmond yesterday conveyed the information that there is no difficulty there in obtaining hard coal in from one to five or six tons at \$9 a ton. In Washington today it was impossible to buy from dealers to exceed half a ton of anthracite coal, and the small quantity in the aggregate sold by the local merchants

hundred weight.

was doled out in the main by the bushel or

Many Destitute of Coal. Hundreds of persons who sought dealers for even these small amounts were told that they could not be provided. As all along, since the cold weather made its appearance, dealers have been particular to show preference to homes where there is sickness, pitiful were many of the demands made upon the dealers of the city today. In many cases women with tears in their eyes were turned away. At the office of the Associated Charities this afternoon Secretary Weller said that the requests for help were many. that the coal merchants with whom the as-

sociation had dealt with regularly were straining every point to provide a necessary supply.

There was no coal shipped from the anthracite mines of Pennsylvania after April. Summer is when the dealers put in their supplies for the winter. They were unable to get any hard coal. When the strike was declared off and the miners returned to work pending the result of the investiga-tion of the commission appointed by President Roosevelt, it was supposed that the national capital might be treated with the same consideration as other cities and same consideration as other cities and towns of the country. It was reasonable to expect this. The people of Washington were justified in believing that the coal operators and the railroad companies would deal fairly.

Theoretically everything looked bright.

Conflict of Opinion. Some local dealers charge that the big operators are selling their product to the highest bidders, that is, those dealers or persons who offer the greatest premium. Other dealers maintain that they have offered all kinds of premiums to get coal for their customers and without success. The situation is a serious one and an inter-

esting one as well.

It was reported this afternoon that a who is at Fort Adams, Rhode Island, on leave of absence, has been placed on the retired list on account of disability incurred in the line of duty.

It was reported this accentual that a barge with 500 tons of coal, consigned to the J Maury Dove Coal Company, had arrived at Georgetown from Philadelphia.

At the main office of the Dove Company no